

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SOFIA 00707 040720Z

11 10

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 NSC-07 NSCE-00 EB-03 CPR-01 CU-03

SCI-03 L-02 PRS-01 INR-10 SAM-01 DRC-01 RSC-01 /058 W

----- 034176

R 031430Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7959

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0707

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, TGEN, OVIP, BU

SUBJECT: POPOV VISIT: POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

REF: (A) SOFIA 0569 AND (B) SOFIA 0568

1. REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF THE RECORD OF SECRETARY DENT'S CONVERSATIONS HERE REINFORCES OUR IMPRESSION REPORTED REF (B) THAT THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT REGARDS POPOV VISIT AS SET, AND NOT JUST SET IN PRINCIPLE BUT FOR "LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE" ALTHOUGH THIS WAS TO BE SUBJECT TO RECONFIRMATION. TECHNICALLY SPEAKING SECRETARY DENT LEFT THE DATE OPEN BY SAYING HE WOULD SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE, BUT BULGARIANS ALMOST CERTAINLY REGARDED THAT REMARK AS APPLICABLE TO PROGRAM AND NOT TO TIMING. NOT HAVING HEARD FROM US SINCE, HOWEVER, THEY MAY HAVE BEGUN TO WONDER ABOUT OUR INTENTIONS.

2. DEPT IS OF COURSE FULLY AWARE THAT DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH IN HIS "U.S. POLICY TOWARD EASTERN EUROPE" SPEECH ON APRIL 4, 1973 (REPEAT 1973) DECLARED: "OUR DESIRE FOR BETTER RELATIONS IS REFLECTED IN OUR READINESS TO WELCOME BULGARIA'S DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OT THE UNITED STATES THIS YEAR." THAT WAS THIRTEEN MONTHS AGO. THERE WILL BE NO IMPRESSION EITHER IN BULGARIA OR ELSEWHERE THAT WE ARE FALLING ALL OVER OURSELVES IN SPREADING OUT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SOFIA 00707 040720Z

THE WELCOME MAT IF WE FINALLY RECEIVE POPOV IN MID-1974.

3. IN OTHER WORDS, WE TRUST THAT NO ONE IN WASHINGTON THINKS THAT BY ACCEPTING THE POPOV VISIT AT THIS TIME WE WOULD BE DOING BULGARIA A FAVOR. QUESTION IS NOT WHETHER SOME BOON IS TO BE BESTOWED ON BULGARIA BUT WHETHER A SLAP IS TO BE ADMINISTERED BY POSTPONING A VISIT THAT GOB REGARDS AS AGREED. IF POPOV VISIT IS NOT TO BECOME AN ISSUE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND BULGARIA INSTEAD OF HELPING TO ADVANCE OUR RELATIONS, WE HAVE LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO GO THROUGH WITH HOSTING IT; AND INDEED THIS IS IN OUR INTEREST AND HAS BEEN FOR SOME TIME. POPOV CAN DO A GREAT DEAL IN OPENING BULGARIA FURTHER TO AMERICAN BUSINESS.

4. THIS LEAVES THE QUESTION OF AGREEMENTS. WHILE THE BULGARS WOULD LIKE TO SIGN AGREEMENTS DURING THE POPOV VISIT AND WOULD DEARLY LOVE THIS TO INCLUDE A SCIENTIFIC/ TECHNICAL AGREEMENT, WE BELIEVE THEY MIGHT SETTLE FOR AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT; AND IF IT PROVES IMPOSSIBLE TO HAVE ANY AGREEMENT IT IS POSSIBLE THEY WILL EVER SETTLE FOR THE KIND OF COMMUNIQUE THAT ENDED THE DENT VISIT TO SOFIA. ON THE OTHER HAND THERE WOULD BE POSITIVE ADVANTAGE IF WE COULD USE THE BULGARIAN EAGERNESS FOR AN EARLY SCIENTIFIC/TECHNICAL AGREEMENT TO OBTAIN WHAT WE WANT IN THE CULTURAL EXCHANGES FIELD. IF NECESSARY, HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE OUR FAILURE TO CONCLUDE SUCH AGREEMENTS (OR EVEN AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT) IN JUNE COULD BE EXPLAINED BY SHORTNESS OF TIME AND COMPLEXITIES OF OUR GOVT. IN ANY CASE, LACK OF READINESS FOR AGREEMENTS DURING POPOV VISIT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE VALID REASON FOR US TO POSTPONE IT.

5. SECRETARY DENT HAS MADE A REAL IMPRESSION ON POPOV, AND WE BELIEVE HOSTING BY THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE WOULD BE GREATLY WELCOMED PARTICULARLY SINCE HE IS POPOV'S MOST PLAUSIBLE COUNTERPART AND IS KNOWN TO HAVE NOT ONLY OFFICIAL BUT PERSONAL CONTACTS IN AMERICAN INDUSTRY. WE BELIEVE A PROGRAM OF REAL INTEREST TO POPOV COULD BE PUT TOGETHER IF IT INCLUDES DISCUSSIONS AT APPROXIMATELY HIS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SOFIA 00707 040720Z

LEVELS IN COMMERCE, STATE, AGRICULTURE, EXIMBANK; SIGNING OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AGREEMENT AND FIRST MEETING OF JOINT COUNCIL; AND VISITS TO LEADING BANKS AND INDUSTRIES IN U.S. (KAISER AND FMC EXECUTIVES HAVE ALREADY INVITED POPOV TO SEE THEIR OPERATIONS IN CALIFORNIA; TO THIS COULD BE ADDED OTHER VISITS OF THIS KIND INCLUDING SUBSTANTIVE CONTACTS WITH HIGH-LEVEL INDUSTRIAL EXECUTIVES).

6. IT WILL BE APPARENT FROM PARA 1 TO 3 ABOVE THAT WE CONSIDER THAT FURTHER POSTPONEMENT OF THE POPOV VISIT, UNLESS IT COMES FROM BULGARIAN INITIATIVE, WOULD PROBABLY LEAD TO SETBACK IN U.S. -BULGARIAN RELATIONS. ON OTHER HAND, FACT THAT VISIT IS IMPENDING COULD ALLOW US TO OBTAIN PERFORMANCE FROM BULGARIANS ON SUCH ISSUES AS DIVIDED FAMILIES AND JAMMING OF VOA IN WHICH THEY HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES TO BE CONCILIATORY OF LATE (SOFIA 0622 AND 0581). IN SO FAR AS AMERICAN EXPORTS TO BULGARIA ARE CONCERNED, POPOV'S MAIN PURPOSE IN COMING TO AMERICA WILL BE TO EXPAND TRADE, AND HE IS IN A POSITION TO MAKE DECISIONS. HE IS ALSO THE MAN TO DEAL WITH ON THE SUBJECT OF BONDHOLDERS' CLAIMS AND HAD TOLD US (SOFIA 0519) THAT HE IS READY TO START DISCUSSIONS.

7. BELIEVE WE SHOULD IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS BE ABLE TO SAY SOMETHING POSITIVE TO POPOV ABOUT HIS VISIT.
HERZ

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, AGREEMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SOFIA00707
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740107-1095
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740575/aaaacpnt.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: (A) SOFIA 0569 AND (B) SOFIA 0568
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <13 JUN 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POPOV VISIT: POLICY CONSIDERATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, TGEN, OVIP, BU, US, (POPOV)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005